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the subject he is treating. In Part III., the history of the Commission with Power is given. In 1888 the State of Iowa substituted for the Advisory Commission another one having mandatory powers, the body that still has charge of the regulation of railroads in the State of Iowa. Part IV., is devoted to a brief presentation of general conclusions.

The author began his study believing that the Advisory Commission was more desirable than the one having mandatory powers; but his investigation has led him to alter his views. He believes that the change which Iowa made in 1888 was wise; the only mistake made by that law being that of changing the office of railroad commissioners from an appointive to an elective one. Although Dr. Dixon feels that the mandatory commission has proven more successful in Iowa than the advisory commission would have proven had it been continued, still he does not draw the conclusion that mandatory commissions are in all cases more desirable than the other type. Which form of commission organization a state should adopt depends upon the character of its population, its commercial and industrial interests, and its geographical situation.

The author's general conclusion is that the commission plan of regulation has been a success, and that it should be adhered to in the future. He believes that the degree of national regulation should be increased to correspond with the ever growing importance of interstate as compared with intrastate traffic. Both Professor Adams and Dr. Dixon believe that the state commissions will always have a function to perform, and that the development of national regulation will never render state regulation useless. Some combined system of national and state control is the thing to be desired. The conclusions of the author are conservative and thoroughly sound.

Dr. Dixon's book is a temperate, careful and valuable study of an important subject. The work has, however, the serious literary defect of containing far too much quotation. The book could have been made a fourth smaller, and would have been made more readable by avoiding quotation wherever it was possible. Even in the chapter on Conclusions, at the close of Part II., one-third of the matter presented is quoted. In the conclusions of Part III., fully one-half is quoted. This is, however, only a literary defect, and does not detract from the scientific value of the work.

EMORY R. JOHNSON.

A Treatise on International Law. By WILLIAM EDWARD HALL. Fourth edition. Pp. xxvii, 791. London: Oxford University Press, 1895.

When a book has passed into its fourth edition critical comment is bound to be well nigh exhausted. Moreover, this edition derives a

personal rather than a scientific interest since the sad event of the author's decease interrupted the work of revision in its midst. Fortunately the original work was so carefully done and the succeeding editions have been so fully revised that not much remained to be done except to bring the work up to date.

The most interesting and important events in the domain of international law, since the third edition appeared in 1889, have been the partition of Africa and the settlement, on paper at least, of the Bering Sea dispute. Of these, the first is made noteworthy by the advent of a new term in law—the Sphere of Influence. The development of the concept herein contained is significant as an illustration of the process by which all international law is evolved. At present, in respect to this new term, it may justly be urged that “in its indefiniteness consists its international value.” In other words, events have compelled a new set of rules for procedure, and they will in turn fashion it to suit the exigencies of the future. Meanwhile the vagueness of their content leaves the possibility of adaptation to new conditions continually open.

The second event of importance, to us in the United States at least, which is added to this volume, is the decision of the Arbitration Tribunal in the Bering Sea dispute. Following the author's custom, no concise history of this case is given, but the points at law are discussed under their appropriate headings. For a *résumé* of the history, the student may be referred to Walker's “Science of International Law,” or to the work of the late Dr. Snow, of Harvard. The decision of the Commission merely reaffirmed the already accepted principles with respect to the control of territorial waters, and rejected the novel pretensions of Secretary Blaine; so that in reality there was not much to be added in any case. Of far greater importance is the subsequent recommendation of the *Institute de Droit International* at its session at Paris in 1894, that the littoral state of three marine miles ought to be doubled. The arbitrary limit having formerly been fixed to conform to the range of the cannon of that time, it seems but reasonable that the modern limit of possession ought to correspond to the limit of modern defence.

This volume is considerably enlarged from the third edition, and it more than ever warrants the unstinted praise which has always been accorded to it. Too comprehensive for a college text-book, it will remain the modern standard for reference, a lasting monument to the eminent authority whose labors ceased with the preparation of this edition.

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